

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153468

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC 9SMUTS, BARBARA) (SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN)
(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS - GUIDANCE

REF: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 2316 (B) DAR ES SALAAM 2317

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO HUNTER THAT DEPARTMENT SERIOUSLY
QUESTIONS DESIRABILITY OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY HUNTER (REF-
TEL A) ESPECIALLY SINCE ONE OF STUDENTS REMAINS IN CAP-
TIVITY. QUESTIONING AT SUCH CONFERENCE IS BOUND TO BE
STICKY AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, IN SPITE OF EXERCISING
GREATEST CARE AND CAUTION, THAT HUNTER OR OTHERS MIGHT IN-
ADVERTENTLY SAY SOMETHING WHICH MIGHT BE DETRIMENTAL TO
CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN STEVEN SMITH'S PROMPT AND SAFE
RELEASE. IN SHORT, WE DO NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING WHICH
WOULD JEOPARDIZE SMITH'S SAFETY. IF HUNTER DETERMINED TO
SAY SOMETHING PUBLIC, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT A PREPARED STATE-
MENT BY HUNTER FOR RELEASE TO PRESS WHICH EXPRESSES RELIEF
OVER THE RELEASE OF TWO OF THE STUDENTS AND HOPE FOR THE
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RELEASE OF SMITH WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ANY PRESS CON-

ERENCE.

2. IN ANY CASE, YOU OR ANY OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PART IN SUCH A PRESS CONFERENCE IF HUNTER

INSISTS ON HAVING ONE. OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN A PRESS CONFERENCE COULD BE MISINTERPRETED. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE MUST CONTINUE TO DIVORCE ANY USG ROLE IN RANSOM EFFORT. AND WE MUST AVOID GIVING ANY IMPRESSION THAT USG HAS PARTICIPATED IN PAYMENT OF RANSOM. SUCH AN IMPRESSION WOULD LIKELY BE CONVEYED BY ANY USG PARTICIPATION IN ANY PRESS CONFERENCE OR PUBLIC STATEMENT. ALSO, WE ASSUME THAT ANY CONFERENCE OR MEETING FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT PURPOSES WILL NOT RPT NOT BE HELD ON OFFICIAL USG PREMISES.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO REITERATE THAT NO RPT NO REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE IN PUBLIC TO PRISONER ISSUE. DEPT CONCURS UPDATED PRESS GUIDANCE REFTEL B. INGERSOLL

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